



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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STUDY AT GREENACRES LANDFILL SET

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SPOKANE -- The Washington State Department of Ecology will begin preliminary field work at the Greenacres Landfill "Superfund" site in Spokane this month.

According to Ecology Department project manager, Dan Swenson, a seismic survey of the landfill and adjacent land will be conducted. The purpose of the two-week project is to measure the depth to bedrock and establish an underground profile of the landfill and surrounding area.

"The seismic survey is conducted by setting off several small explosions and then measuring the amount of time it takes for the pressure waves to reach the bedrock and return to listening devices," Swenson said. "The information will be recorded on a seismograph for later interpretation."

Swenson said the small explosions should be no louder than the firing of a shotgun.

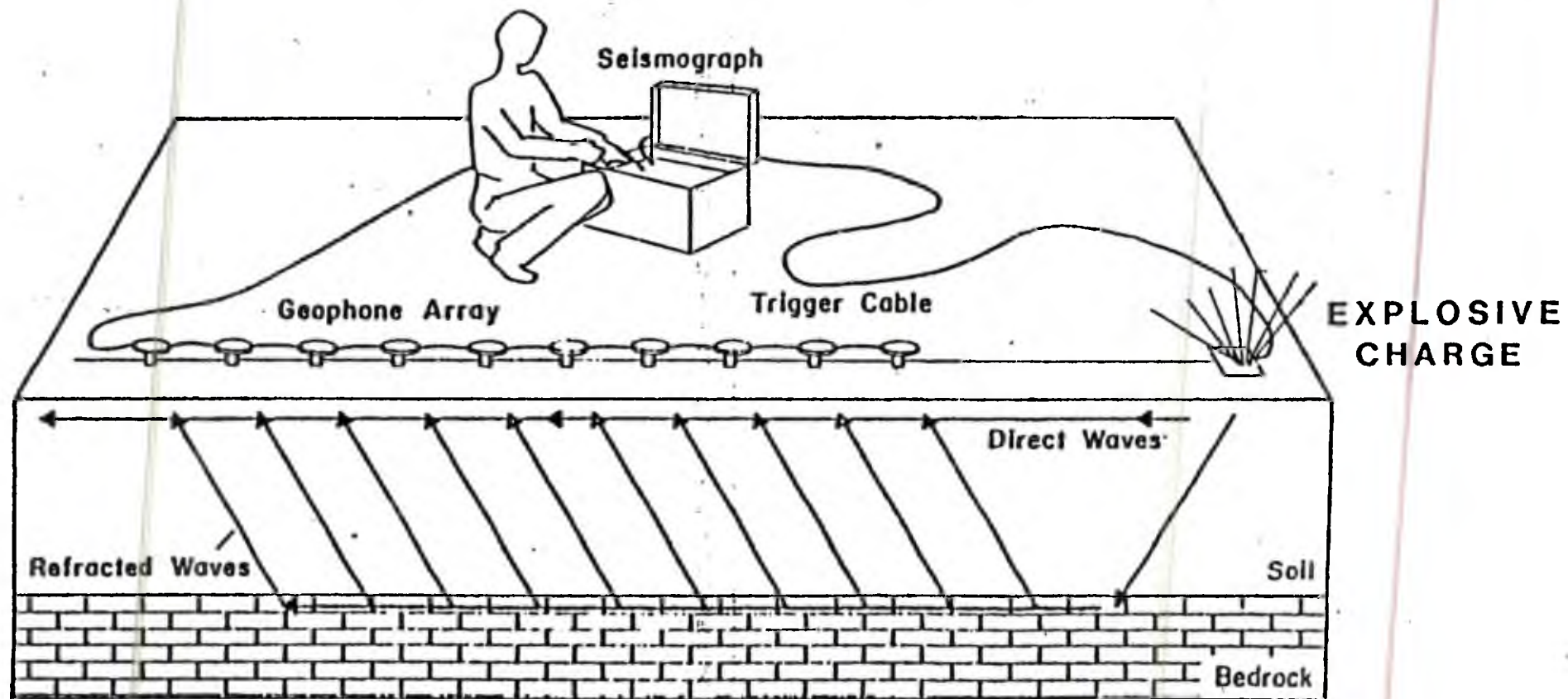
"The results of the seismic work will be used with information from previous work done at the site to determine what further investigation is needed to help develop a long-term solution to the groundwater contamination problem," he said.

The 90-acre landfill, which has been closed since 1971, is located on a hillside next to the Spokane Valley Aquifer. A residential water well next to the landfill has been contaminated. The well is no longer being used.

The Greenacres Landfill was proposed for federal Superfund designation in September 1983. Earlier this year, the Ecology Department received \$400,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct an investigation of the site.



SEISMIC SURVEY



Field layout of a 12 channel seismograph showing the path of direct and refracted seismic waves in a two-layer soil/rock system.